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Brown fired; Penders to join Spurs?

Spurs coach asks for termination; cites owner's lack of confidence

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs fired coach Larry Brown at his own request Tuesday, ending his 3 1/2 years with a team that won two Midwest Division championships but struggled this season.

Brown's termination followed two road losses and two stormy days of dealings with owner Red McCombs in which Brown reportedly was fired then rehired before being fired a second time.

It marks the first time Brown has been terminated in his 20 years of coaching basketball.

"Larry was more and more feeling that I didn't have the confidence in him that he would have liked to have had," McCombs said at a hastily called news conference Tuesday morning.

"He requested that he be terminated. I didn't expect that. It certainly was not contemplated," McCombs said. "It's a very unusual situation to be asked to be terminated."

Brown was not at the news conference and did not return a telephone call from The Associated Press.

Brown will be replaced for the rest of the season by Bob Bass, Spurs vice president of bas-

ketball operations, who has coached the Spurs and other teams in the past.

Bass, who last coached the Spurs in the 1983-84 season after Morris McHone was fired, was to lead the team in Tuesday night's home game against the Los Angeles Clippers. The assistant coaching staff will remain with the team the remainder of the season, Bass said.

The Spurs will begin a search for a new head coach for next year.

Despite published reports that McCombs had fired then rehired Brown

after a turbulent meeting Monday, the Spurs owner said he considered Brown the head coach until he didn't show up at a Tuesday meeting and the team's shoot-around.

"Larry has made a great contribution here," McCombs said. "We are all the better for it. I wish it was the kind of thing that could have lasted forever."

Brown's record was 153-131 as Spurs coach. This season, San Antonio has posted a 21-17 record so far.

Bass, McCombs and assistant coach Gregg Popovich met with Spurs players Tuesday to tell them of the coaching decision.

Texas coach likely candidate

AUSTIN (AP) — San Antonio owner Red McCombs may not have to look very far to replace Larry Brown, fired Tuesday as the Spurs' coach.

Texas Longhorns coach Tom Penders has been mentioned before as a possible Spurs coach, and as recently as last week McCombs said Penders would be a likely coach to fill any Spurs vacancy.

"As far as I think Tom Penders can coach in the NBA, the answer is yes. As far as if I'd consider him if I had a coaching vacancy, the answer is yes," McCombs said last week in an interview.

During a weekly Southwest Conference coaches conference call with reporters Tuesday, Penders declined comment on his interest in the job. Penders said he has not been contacted by McCombs.

"Of course I got to know Red when I first moved here," Penders said. "He's a strong UT-ex and very supportive of our program."

"I'm saddened to hear (about Brown's firing)," he said.

McCombs, a Texas alum who has been friends with Penders since the Longhorns coach came to Austin in 1988. The two regularly have attended several of each other's games every season since.

Penders has been rumored to have headed to the NBA — even the Spurs — before last summer, he was interviewed by the New York Knicks for the head coaching job.

Penders is a seven-year contract considered a lucrative college coach. But he has been involved in controversy surrounding star player, Dwyane Wade, Cambridge senior forward is fighting an NCAA appeal to regain his eligibility which was revoked when he admitted accepting a check from a junior college booster.

In its early stages, the ordeal reportedly caused a rift between Penders and the UT administration. Both parties insist that the wounds have since been healed.



Battalion file photo

Tom Penders could be a viable candidate for the Spurs post

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NOTE: This course is not listed in the Spring 1992 Schedule of Classes. This is an 11 week, 1 credit hour class that will be graded S/U.

For more information, call 845-6520
 Department of Student Affairs
 A Part of the Division of Student Services

Andro

Continued from Page 7

nant team in football. It didn't matter what kind of field they were playing on, they were the best — Case closed. Nothing will change this Sunday.

Why? They have better players. They match up very well against the Bills. They are an NFC team — Three very good reasons.

Jim Kelly is a great quarterback who is having a good year. Mark Rypien is an average quar-

terback having a great year. The Bills offense has sputtered a little bit this season. The Redskins have been clicking on all cylinders.

The matchup to watch Sunday will be the Redskins Posse, their receiving corps of Art Monk, Gary Clark and Ricky Sanders. It will be interesting to see how they fair against the secondary of the Bills led by safeties Mark Kelso and Leonard Smith and cornerback Kirby Jackson. The Redskin receivers should have a field day against the Bill's

secondary.

The only person capable of stopping the Redskins is Thurman Thomas. The Bills running back is the best at his position in all of football. If the Bills decide to give him the ball every play, they have a chance to win the game. That should about sum up the Bills chance for victory.

The AFC is just plain weak. An 8-8 team made the playoffs in the AFC. The NFC team with the worst record in the playoffs was Dallas. They were 11-5 and also won a playoff game.

The Bills are the best team in the AFC. But is that really such a good thing? Try to name three good teams in the AFC? Get back to me when you have the answer.

Last year's 20-19 New York Giant win over the Bills was one of the best Super Bowl's ever. And a lot of people think that this year's game could be that same kind of good game. Rypien will throw for 300 yards and three touchdown passes and the 'Skins will roll 35-17.

Last year it was the Giants,

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For Speaker Schedule, visit Blocker Rm. 101

Luncheon

"The Glass Ceiling: Are We Breaking It or Raising It"

Speaker: Suzanne Allford

Vice President of People Division
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College Station Hilton, 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Tickets available for \$6 in the Blocker Lobby.

Banquet

Tuesday January 28th, 7 p.m.
 College Station Hilton

Speaker:
 Linnet Deily

President and CEO First Interstate Bank of Texas

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Minority Student Business Symposium & Luncheon

Wednesday, January 29th

Guest Speakers in Blocker Business Classrooms
 For Speaker Schedule, visit Blocker Rm. 101

Luncheon

11:15 am - MSC 212

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Mr. Nick Gonzalez

Asst. Vice President, Commercial Real Estate
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 Sunday, January 26th
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15th Annual MBA/MS Association Case Competition
 Friday, January 21st
 8:30 a. m. - 8:30 p. m.
 Memorial Student Center
 For More Info Contact:
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